

## Message Text

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73

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 OPIC-03 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-02 AGR-05

TRSE-00 OMB-01 HEW-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /089 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:RPERRY:DH

APPROVED BY AF - JJBLAKE

AF/S:RTHAVERKAMP

AFR/ESA:JKNOLL/LPOMPA

AF/EPG - ESEGALL (DRAFT)

IO/ML - JWASHBURN (DRAFT)

OPIC - BHENDERSON (INFO)

USIA - WCONNER (PHONE)

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P R 122056Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060876

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, LT

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY: US-LESOTHO BILATERAL  
RELATIONS

REF: A) MASERU 39; B) MASERU 173; C) STATE 53139; D) MBA-  
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BANE 297; E) STATE 56189

1. SUMMARY: DEPT RECOGNIZES SIGNIFICANCE OF LESOTHO'S ROLE IN DYNAMIC SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND VALUES ITS SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITIONS IN MULTINATIONAL FORUMS. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR RESOURCES, USG WILL GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO TO PROMOTE ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TO SUPPORT ITS POLITICAL ROLE IN THE EVOLUTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. FOLLOWING IS IN RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED IN REF A. END SUMMARY.

2. SOUTHERN AFRICA: DEPT IS AWARE THAT LESOTHO, ALONG WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WOULD BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY AN OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE IN THE AREA. THE USG CONTINUES TO USE THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HOWEVER, ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR COMMON GOAL OF PEACEFUL CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT AS A RESULT OF FOREIGN

INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

3. AID PROCEDURES: WE AGREE THAT AID PROCEDURES INVOLVE LONG DELAYS IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, BUT CONSIDERING NATURE OF MOST PROJECTS REQUIRING EXTENSIVE DESIGN AND COORDINATION WITH HOST COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ADOPTION MORE FLEXIBLE PROCEDURES IN NEAR FUTURE. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE LONG TERM PROJECTS ARE NOT ONLY BEST FOR LESOTHO OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD, BUT OFFER BEST HOPE OF MAINTAINING USG ASSISTANCE TO GOL AT REASONABLY CONSISTENT LEVEL. ALL REQUESTS FOR DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOL HAVE BEEN FAVORABLY CONSIDERED BY AID/W AS SHOWN IN SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE NEW PROJECT ACTIVITIES LAST TWO YEARS. ADDITIONALLY, THE SADPT PROJECT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO URGENT REQUESTS.

4. FOOD AID: ALTHOUGH FOOD AID IS PROGRAMMED ON A YEAR TO YEAR BASIS, THE USG WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONTINUE ITS PL 480 TITLE II ASSISTANCE UNTIL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS NOW UNDER WAY HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN EITHER REDUCING FOOD IMPORTS OR EXPANDING EXPORTS OF HIGH

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VALUE CASH CROPS TO FINANCE SUCH IMPORTS. AMBASSADOR MAY MAKE GENERAL STATEMENT ALONG THESE LINES TO GOL.

5. AID PROGRAMS: THERE HAS BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN US ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO. THIS INCREASE, AS AMBASSADOR MAY INFORM GOL, IS IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE THE AID PROGRAM PLAYS IN LESOTHO'S DEVELOPMENT AND IS AN INDICATION OF OVERALL GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS INCLUDING

PARTICULARLY GOL SUPPORT OF US POSITIONS IN MULTI-LATERAL FORUMS. EVIDENCE OF OUR INTEREST IN LESOTHO ARE THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM AMOUNTS IN THE FY 1977 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION: THABA BOSIU - \$500,000; LAND & WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT - \$625,000; AND HEALTH MANPOWER TRAINING- \$558,000; WHICH IS A TOTAL OF \$1,683,000. THE ACTUAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO LESOTHO NEXT YEAR WILL BE MORE SINCE LESOTHO WILL RECEIVE SOME OF THE \$1,250,000 REQUESTED FOR THE SADPT.

6. UBL: STATE 56189 RESPONDED TO SUGGESTIONS IN MBABANE 297.

7. NATIONAL NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM: PER PARA F, REF A, AID/W IS PRESENTLY REVIEWING PROPOSAL FOR NUTRITION PROJECT IN LESOTHO, PER STATE 53139.

8. SELF-HELP: THE DEPT HAS ALLOCATED LESOTHO \$15,000 OF SELF-HELP FUNDS FOR THE THIRD TRANCHE OF FY 76, MAKING TOTAL OF \$45,000. WE NOTE THAT POST HAS OBLIGATED THIS AMOUNT AND HAS PENDING PROJECTS VALUED AT \$135,000. WILL ATTEMPT ALLOCATE \$15,000 FOR THE FOURTH TRANCHE, OR MORE IF RESOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE.

9. PRIVATE INVESTMENT: DEPT REGRETS USG UNABLE TO RECRUIT AN AMERICAN DIRECTOR FOR LESOTHO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LNDC) AS REQUESTED BY GOL. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND GOL AMBASSADOR MASHOLOGU HAS INTERVIEWED CANADIAN APPLICANTS WHO WOULD BE FUNDED BY CIDA.

10. TENTH ANNIVERSARY: DEPENDING ON PERSONNEL AND FISCAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE TIME, DEPT WILL ATTEMPT TO SEND A HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE TO LESOTHO'S TENTH  
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ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS IN OCTOBER.

11. PUBLICITY: USIA WILL BE HAPPY ASSIST POST IN PUBLICIZING US ASSISTANCE TO GOL'S DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ASPECTS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS INCLUDING COOPERATION ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. HOWEVER, POST SHOULD INFORM US IN DETAIL OF TYPE OF PROMOTION DESIRED AND MATERIALS NEEDED.

12. THE ABOVE PARAGRAPHS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO RESPOND TO THE REQUESTS MADE IN REFTELS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES. KISSINGER

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